



Water System Advisory Committee Meeting

October 7, 2015 @ 7 pm

Mansfield Town Hall, Town Clerk's Office

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John McGuire, Mansfield EDC, CHAIR
Meg Reich, Willimantic River Alliance, VICE CHAIR
Thomas Callahan, University of Connecticut
Greg Padick, Joshua's Trust
Art Hall, Coventry
Eugene Koss, Tolland Water Commission
Shawn Santasiere, Mansfield Sustainability Committee
Michael Soares, Mansfield
Rob Miller, EHHD

ADDITIONAL STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Linda Painter, Mansfield Planning Department; David Radka and Dan Lesnieski, Connecticut Water.

Welcome and Introductions: Meeting was called to order by Chairman McGuire at 7:07 pm. Due to a room conflict, the meeting was moved to the Town Clerk's Office (vault).

Minutes of June 24, 2015: There were no comments or changes to the minutes of the June 24, 2015 meeting; approved as submitted with two abstentions.

Water Supply Project Status:

- a. Construction – Mr. Lesnieski provided an update on water main construction activities, including the status of the various pipeline segments. He noted work will continue as long as weather holds and the DOT allows, with some off-road work possible during colder conditions. Mr. Lesnieski also noted that paving restoration was slated to begin and described the process, anticipated schedule and communication surrounding the work.

A copy of Mansfield's recorded message concerning the initiation of the paving restoration was distributed (Attachment A), with several members acknowledging having received the message.

Mr. Koss reiterated comments made by Mr. Tursi of the Tolland Water Commission in June that last year's water main installation work in Tolland went quickly and smoothly. He inquired as to the expected date of completion of the section between Anthony Road and the Willimantic River Bridge. Mr. Lesnieski indicated the degree of work to be completed in 2015 was dependent upon weather and DOT rules, but felt it unlikely the entire segment would be installed this year.

b. Communications – Discussed during construction update.

Mansfield Four Corners Project Status

Linda Painter gave an update on the Four Corners sewer district project indicating the EIE was submitted to DEEP on August 19, 2015, and the agency had reviewed approximately fifty percent of the draft by the end of September. Ms. Painter noted that certain approvals were still needed with UConn, including a sanitary easement and agreement allowing for treatment of the wastewater at the UConn facility. Preliminary appraisals of affected properties were noted as being completed.

The Committee discussed the process by which the public will be able to comment on the EIE. In response to a question about the need for any land use or environmental permits for the project, Ms. Painter indicated that local inland wetlands approval is expected to be the only permit needed.

Mansfield Plan of Conservation & Development Update

Ms. Painter reported the Mansfield Planning & Zoning commission unanimously adopted the updated municipal Plan of C&D last month with an effective date of October 8, and that she is currently working on a plan summary. She also noted an update/rewrite of applicable zoning regulations was in process, and that P&Z was interested in having the land use office expedite the portion of the regulations dealing with water availability.

Updates on Related Activities in Member Communities/Organizations:

Mr. Koss reported the Tolland Water Commission's immediate needs were largely met last year with completion of the emergency interconnection with CWC. He also indicated the Commission was in the process of soliciting proposals for the inspection and repair/repainting of the system's 560,000 gallon storage tank.

In response to discussion concerning service connections outside Mansfield, Mr. Radka indicated they would need to follow CWC's standard practice while also being consistent with the UConn/Mansfield water supply EIE. Mr. Koss noted that connections to the pipeline within Tolland would be Tolland Water Commission customers. Asked if the Town was continuing to evaluate whether to continue owning and operating its water system, Mr. Koss indicated the Town Council was leaving any decisions about ownership to the next administration and town council.

WSAC Review Role for Specific Projects

- a. Verification Form and Supporting Documentation for Review – Linda Painter distributed a draft water service connection application and permitting guide (Attachments B and C, respectively). She noted she had recently discussed with P&Z the timing of when zoning applications could be made for projects utilizing public water and indicated the commission will look at the concept of “readily connected” on a case by case basis. Ms. Painter shared her guidance that the critical date was when the CWC and UConn construction contracts were fully executed.

The Committee discussed the draft form and permitting guide, whether quantities of water would be included on the application, and the process for the WSAC to provide comment to the Town. Ms. Painter explained that water quantity was not included as the form was intended for use by the land use office to administer the CWC-Mansfield water service agreement. She noted that upon notice of an applicable project, the office would transmit a memo to the WSAC requesting review and comment, along with the timeframe for providing such comment (typically about one month). Mr. Radka suggested that CWC would look at preparing a spreadsheet to track requests for water service and the quantities associated with them for sharing with the Committee.

John McGuire asked Committee members to provide any comments on the draft documents to Linda Painter prior to the next meeting.

Future Meeting Dates and Locations: Next meetings are scheduled for January 6, 2016 and April 6, 2016. Linda Painter agreed to verify room availability.

Other Business: None.

Public Comment: None.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.